MICHOUD WORKER QUIZZED

At. Item 3-4-67

'63 La. Arms-Cache Case Is New Focus of DA Probe

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison is reported to have turned his assassination plot probe today toward a group of men involved in a 1963 FBI raid on a cache of war materials in Lacombe.

The report followed a 90-minute interrogation yesterday of the latest witness in the investigation, 42-year-old Dante Marachini, an employe of the Chrysler Co. at the Michoud Assembly Facility.

Marachini emerged after the session into a crush of newsmen and cameramen complaining about freedom of the press. The five-foot-seven native of Brooklyn smiled for cameramen, though.

MARACHINI TOLD newsmen, "I don't know what this darn thing is all about." After getting caught in the crowd of newsmen, he ran away shouting, "What the heck! I know the freedom of the press — but this!"

Garrison is reported to be searching for at least one American who was believed to have been involved in the group hordeing munitions at Lacombe.

Among the items seized in the raid July 31, 1963, at an unoccupied cottage in Lacombe were 20 empty 100-pound bomb casing, 48 cases of dynamite, napalm and firing caps. The FBI said the explosive were designed for use by persons planning a "military operation against a foreign country with which the United States is at peace."

THE OWNER OF the house was identified as William Julius McLaney of New Orleans. His wife said at the time of the raid the house had been loaned to a Cuban exile friend she knew only as "Jose Juarez." The McLaneys had lived in Cuba until 1960, where they ran a tourist business. They moved to New Orleans "because Castro made things impossible down there," Mrs. McLaney said.

Questioned last night, Mrs. McLaney said she had not

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bee n contacted recently by Garrison's investigators or anyone else.

The district attorney's investigators, in their probe of a possible New Orleans conspiracy resulting in the death of President Kennedy, previously had called James R. Lewallen, Clay L. Shaw and Dean Adams Andrews Jr. for questioning.

Lewallen, an employe of the Boeing Co. at Michoud, was subpenaed, questioned and released Wednesday. Andrews, an assistant district attorney in Jefferson Parish, was subpenaed and questioned Thursday and released.

SHAW, HOWEVER, was arrested in Garrison's office Wednesday and later booked with participating in a conspiracy to murder Kennedy.

Shaw, who in a statement to newsmen strongly denied Garrison's accusations, was for 19 years managing director of the International Trade Mart. He was released on $10,000 bond.

Andrews had testified before the Warren Commission that a man named Clay Bertrand called him after the assassination and asked him to defend Lee Harvey Oswald, the man named as President Kennedy's murderer by the commission.

Garrison has stated that Clay Bertrand is an alias that was used by Shaw. Shaw, in his statement Thursday, denied knowing a Clay Bertrand or ever using an alias in his life.

Andrews, who told the commission that Bertrand was primarily a voice on the phone and someone he had only seen twice, said through his attorney Thursday that he does not know if Bertrand and Shaw are the same person.

THE SUBPENA ISSUED yesterday was the first time Marachini had been linked with Garrison's probe.

The latest witness in the case works as a parts scheduler for Chrysler. He attended high school and technical school in Bari, Italy, from 1943 through 1949.

He returned to this country in 1951 and went to work for the Witco Chemical Co. in Chicago. He was unemployed between November 1961, and January 1962, during which month he moved to New Orleans. Marachini went to work here for James E. Comiskey Co. Inc., and was employed there until August 1962.

From then until November 1962, he was again unemployed.

HE WENT TO WORK in April 1963, for Standard Coffee Co., which has facilities at 725 Magazine and 640 Magazine. Oswald worked for William B. Riley Coffee Co. Inc., at 640 Magazine during the same period. Both coffee firms are owned by the William B. Reily Co.

Oswald arrived here in late April 1963, leaving his wife and daughter in Texas, and went to work for Reily shortly after getting here.

Oswald was fired July 19, shortly after making a comment to Adrian Alba, operator of the Crescent City Garage at 618 Magazine, that he was dissatisfied with his job.

He told Alba he was going "out there where the gold is."

Oswald explained to Alba that the gold was the "pot of gold at the end of the rainbow that everybody looks for." He said it was "out in Gentilly. Over at the space

agency."

HE TOLD ALBA he was "in like Flynn" and added, "In only three or four days I'm going to give my notice, and then I'm going to get that pot of gold."

A check revealed, however, that no one named Lee Harvey Oswald ever applied for work with any Michoud companies.

In another development yesterday, Dr. Donald Gallant, profesor of psychiatry at Tulane University School of Medicine, said that sodium pentathol is "quite unreliable" as a method of determining whether a person is actually telling the truth.

GARRISON'S OFFICE referred to a confidential informant and said the informant had voluntarily submitted to sodium pentathol injections and subsequent questioning and that he repeated his information during the session.

Dr. Gallant said that there is no such thing as a truth serum and that a person still can lie while under the influence of sodium pentathol.

He said the drug is a type of barbiturate which brings the patient close to sleep and increases a person's suggestibility but that for investigative purposes a lie detector test is more reliable. Even that is not infallible, he said